REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending, including independent claims 1 and 11. Dependent claims 2, 7-10, 12 and 17-20 were objected to but were found to contain patentable subject matter.

Claims 1, 3-6, 11 and 13-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S.P. 6,615,134 ("Ando"). Applicant respectfully disagrees with these rejections.

Applicant's invention generally is directed to providing another way to search for a destination. In particular, a user provides input data in the form of an image of the desired destination, and the invention uses the input image data as a search key to search a database of stored image data. The output of the search is one or more pieces of image data having a predetermined or higher level of resemblance to the search key. The user selects image data from the search results, and position information correlated with the selected image data is determined to be a destination. (E.g., Application at ¶¶ 6-11.)

Applicant submits that Ando is not anticipating. Ando generally is directed to a data communication system to provide a mobile terminal with access to information (e.g., a picture or video) of the state of a desired position on a route to be taken by the mobile terminal (e.g., col. 2, lines 19-27; col. 9, lines 6-22). A request by a mobile terminal for such information is transmitted to a base station that calculates the traveling route of the requesting terminal and determines whether any other terminals exist on the traveling route that can acquire and provide the desired image information (e.g., col. 10, lines 32-56). In alternative embodiments, the base station can search for a requested image from among pre-stored images in an image database (col. 29, lines 56-64), and image information from a plurality of other mobile terminals can be provided to the requesting terminal to allow the user to select a desired image (col. 30, line 63 to col. 31, line 1).

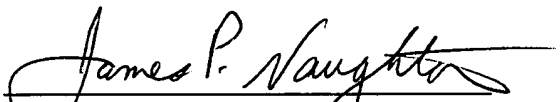
Therefore, among other things, Ando does not describe or suggest using input Image data as a search key, or searching a database of stored image data to extract image data having a required level of resemblance to the input image data, as recited in both of Applicant's independent claims. The Examiner's citations in Ando to support this alleged disclosure do not at all describe these features. The system of Ando does not use input image data as a search key and does not search for similar images. Rather, the content of a request by a requesting terminal can include a terminal identification, the position of the requesting terminal, the form and content of the requested image, and the position about which information is desired (e.g, col. 1-0, lines 6-18; col. 16, lines 51-62).

Further, Ando does not describe or suggest correlating image data with position information and setting the position of an image selected by the user as a destination, as recited in Applicant's independent claims. The passages in Ando that are cited by the Examiner for support are not applicable. These passages all describe the use of a GPS system to determine the position of the user's vehicle itself, and do not describe setting the position of a selected image as a destination.

For at least these reasons, Applicant's rejected dependent claims also distinguish over Ando.

Therefore, Applicant submits that the pending rejected claims are patentable over the cited art and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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